

John Terry complaint against the Sun rejected by PCC

The Press Complaints Commission has rejected a privacy complaint from the England football team captain, John Terry, who claimed that the Sun identified him in breach of the Editors' Code of Practice in a story about his mother and mother-in-law accepting formal cautions for shoplifting. Mr Terry's solicitors, Kingsley Napley, argued that the coverage was almost entirely focused on their client when he was not genuinely relevant to the story. He had not been involved in the incidents and, they said, the fact of his relationship to those involved was irrelevant.

However, in cases made under Clause 9 (Reporting of Crime) of the Code, the Commission has always considered the extent to which the relationship between the parties has been established in the public domain. In this case, the relationship had indeed become public, not least as the result of media coverage of the complainant's wedding. The newspaper had not revealed a "hitherto unknown connection between the parties".

The Commission was also convinced by the argument that the complainant was genuinely relevant to the story and could legitimately be made its focus. His mother and mother-in-law had accepted cautions for stealing items from stores which directly sponsored the England football team. "The complainant, as captain, could reasonably be said to be the public face of the team", said the Commission. "He was also one of the highest-earning footballers in the world who, it was said, provided for his family financially. The fact that – despite such wealth – his mother and mother-in-law had been involved in claims of shoplifting was clearly relevant to the matter."

To see the adjudication in full [click here](#)

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